

Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum discharges.
Comment period ends September 20, 2002.

Problem description:

In December 1998, two petroleum underground storage tanks (UST), were removed from the subject site. The UST's, identified as 5,000 gallons and 7,500 gallons in size, were used for the storage of gasoline. During the required UST closure investigation, soil contamination was encountered at maximum concentrations of TPH gasoline at 8.7 mg/Kg, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and total xylenes (BTEX) at 0.012, 0.008, 0.020, and 0.037 mg/Kg respectively. No MtBE was detected.

Actions Completed:

On May 19, 2000, an initial exploratory test pit was excavated to a depth of approximately 16 feet below ground surface. The test pit was dug at the former location of the UST's to determine if the identified soil contamination had reached the groundwater. Oversight of the project was provided by a Trinity County Health Department representative, who also collected a water sample from the pit, and submitted it to a laboratory. Analysis of the water sample resulted in the detection of TPH gas at 24.7 mg/L. Analysis for BTEX and fuel oxygenates MtBE, DIPE, TAME, and ETBE was also conducted, however, these compounds were below laboratory detection limits.

Due to the results of the initial investigation, and at the request of Water Board staff, a registered geologist was engaged to provide oversight of an investigation. On June 5, 2001, a soil boring was drilled to groundwater immediately adjacent to the former UST locations to collect a groundwater sample. Analysis of the water sample resulted in the detection of TPH gasoline @ 2.2 mg/L. Again, BTEX, MtBE, DIPE, ETBE, TAME and TBA were not detected at the laboratory reporting limit.

Excavation of the UST's in 1998 eliminated the source of petroleum contamination at the site. Soil analysis at the time of removal resulted in the detection of petroleum constituents at low levels. Additional investigation was conducted to determine whether or not groundwater had been impacted. Results of two investigations at the source area only identified the presence of TPH gasoline in water (2.2 mg/L). The minimal findings of petroleum contamination in the source area indicates migration and adverse impacts is an improbable scenario. The presence of only TPH gasoline also indicates natural degradation processes will occur faster than when other petroleum contaminants are present, and therefor reaching water quality objectives in a reasonably short period of time.

Additional information collected during investigation of this site included a sensitive receptor survey and research of groundwater at other nearby investigation sites. Groundwater gradient information obtained from a site approximately 1000 feet to the east, indicates a gradient is directed to the south and west, conforming with local land topography. This information suggests the prevailing groundwater gradient at the subject site is directed southwest.

Sensitive Receptors

The closest known sensitive receptor is Hayfork Creek, located about 800 feet south of the subject site. Because of the very low level of contamination found, it is very unlikely that Hayfork Creek could be impacted by the releases from this site. A well survey consisting of area reconnaissance and record search at the Department of Water Resources did not locate wells within approximately 1000 feet of the this site. Water supplies for the community of Hayfork come from Ewing Reservoir and are provided by a community water service. This reservoir is located significantly up-gradient and distal from the former tank locations, and is not threatened by the identified petroleum release.

Proposed Action:

Site is proposed for no further action.

MtBE Status: No MtBE detected in water or soil samples. Analytical reporting limits for soil were 5.0 ug/Kg and for water were 5.0 ug/L.

Unless comments are received or new information is presented, Regional Water Board staff plan to concur with no further action upon conclusion of the comment period. Please contact Cody Walker by telephone at (707) 576-2642 or e-mail at walkc@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov for all issues concerning Hayfork Garage.